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Report of the Peace Congress in Our Next Issue.

The Twelfth Universal Peace Congress was held, according to announcement, at Rouen, France, from the 2d to the 25th of September. It was attended by about five hundred delegates and adherents, and was one of the most enthusiastic and successful of the congresses so far held, but it has been impossible to get the report of the proceedings ready for this month's number of the ADVOCATE. Our November issue will, therefore, be made a special Peace Congress number. In addition to an extended report of the proceedings of the Peace Congress, it will contain also an account of the Twenty-first Conference of the International Law Association, which was held at Antwerp, Belgium, from the 29th of September to the 2d of October. Secretary Trueblood attended and took part in both these meetings. The paper on "A Regular International Advisory Congress," which he read before the International Law Conference, and which was most favorably received, will be given in full in our next issue. We hope

also to have room for one or two of the most effective speeches made at the Peace Congress.

A Month of Pacific Events.

The past month has witnessed an unusual number of events which bear testimony to the rapidity with which the reign of reason and law, in spite of many obstacles, is extending itself in the domain of international affairs. The force of these events would be much more apparent than it is, if they were brought adequately to public attention. But no amount of neglect can alter the fact that they exist, that they are a "sign of the times," a revelation of the goal toward which all important international movements are now directing themselves.

First, there is the meeting of the Alaska Boundary Commission which has been sitting at the Foreign Office in London. At the present writing, some twenty sessions of the Commission have been held, and there is no phase of the controversy which has not been examined with all the thoroughness and comprehensiveness of which the highest legal talent is capable. The Canadian side of the question has been presented by a body of eight prominent English and Colonial counsel, at the head of which have been the British Attorney-General and the Solicitor General. A body of eminent members of the American Bar, of which Hon. J. M. Dickinson has been the leading counsel, have defended with great ability and clearness the American contention. We cannot help believing that the six members of the Commission, which has been presided over by the British Lord Chief Justice, will be able to reach a satisfactory solution of the question, and that the troublesome dispute will now finally be put to rest. The work of the Commission is practically completed and the announcement of their award may be expected within a few days. Altogether the case is sure to be a memorable one, and the spectacle of the two great and powerful nations thus calmly examining in the forum of reason a serious difference, and trying to find out just where justice lies, is most inspiring and encouraging.

Even more noteworthy has been the meeting at The Hague of the Venezuela tribunal, chosen from the Permanent Court to settle the question of preferential treatment, as between England, Germany and Italy, and the pacific creditors of Venezuela. Eleven

nations are parties in this case, and the point at issue is one the decision of which will have a very far-reaching effect in international relations hereafter. As being the second dispute actually handled by a panel from the Hague Court, this case will also be most influential in giving prestige to the Court and to the permanent institution of arbitration in general.

While these two important cases have been under discussion, some of the ten mixed commissions appointed to determine the amount of the claims to be paid by Venezuela to her creditors have also been at work, and one or two of them have already completed their labors and given their award.

In the meantime the three great organizations, whose purpose is the promotion of international friendship and the substitution of law for force in the relations of nations to each other, have been holding their annual meetings. These organizations, now in existence for many years, have grown to be very influential and command the attention and respect of the municipal and governmental authorities wherever they meet. The first of these meetings was the conference of the Interparliamentary Peace Union at Vienna from the 7th to the 9th of September. It was attended by a large number of delegates, members of the various parliaments, and was one of the most impressive meetings which the Union has ever held since its organization fourteen years ago. The officials of Vienna and of the Austrian government who received the delegates gave their unqualified approval and support of the object which the Union is pursuing, namely, the establishment of arbitration as the normal method of dealing with controversies and the promotion of closer and more cordial relations between the governments and peoples of the world.

Following the Conference of the Interparliamentary Union came the twelfth Universal Peace Congress at Rouen, France, the 22d to the 27th of September. The Congress, details of which will be given in our next issue, was attended by about five hundred delegates and adherents, and was, on the whole, one of the most enthusiastic, practical and successful of the whole series of peace congresses.

The last of the significant pacific events which the month has witnessed was the meeting of the International Law Association at Antwerp, Belgium, the 29th of September to the 2d of October. This was the twenty-first conference of the Association, and the presence of more than a hundred jurists and publicists from different countries and the able and animated discussions which marked the sessions bore strong testimony to the enlightened and generous spirit which is more and more controlling international public sentiment and developing between peoples a deeper and wider sense of justice, respect and humanity.

The month has been altogether an extraordinary

one, as will be seen from this brief rehearsal. The friends of peace never had greater reason to congratulate themselves on the certainty of the speedy and complete triumph of their principles and measures. There is no mistaking the meaning of the events alluded to. They may have little significance to those who measure occurrences by the noise, the sensational talk and the public disturbances which they produce. But to those who look beneath the surface and know the real springs and signs of progress, these events reveal clearly the fact that a new international era is already upon us; that the new pacific order, so long talked of, and which many believe to be yet far off, has already begun and is rapidly establishing itself in a strong and permanent way under our very eyes.

There is still much of indifference, of prejudice, of the power of blind traditional beliefs to be overcome before our great ideals can be fully realized. But if the friends of peace only comprehended what has been actually won, if they only knew the immense strength of their present position, if they only all had eyes to see, if they would only all quit talking doubtfully and seize with one accord the magnificent opportunity now before them, they would be able in a brief period to pull down the whole hoary structure of international animosity and its attendant militarism, and leave it a collapsed and irremediable ruin. The times are ripe and need men of faith and courage.

The Anglo-French Arbitration Treaty.

Among the important events of the past month given in the foregoing editorial, the negotiation of the Anglo-French arbitration treaty would have been included if its conclusion had been known at the time of writing. The treaty, which had been under consideration for some time, has just been signed (October 14) and made public, and is as follows:

"The government of the French Republic and the government of his Britannic Majesty, signatories of the convention concluded at The Hague July 29, 1899, for the peaceful settlement of international disputes:

"Considering that by Article 19 of that treaty the high contracting powers reserve to themselves the right of concluding agreements with the view to have recourse to arbitration in all cases in which they shall consider it possible to submit thereto, have authorized the undersigned to agree to the following provisions:

"ARTICLE 1. Differences of a judicial order, or such as relate to the interpretation of treaties existing between the two contracting parties, which may arise between them, and which it may not be possible to settle by means of diplomacy, shall be submitted to the permanent court of arbitration established at The Hague by the convention of July 29, 1899, on condition, however, that they do not involve either vital interests or the independence or honor of the two contracting states, and that they do not affect the interests of a third power.